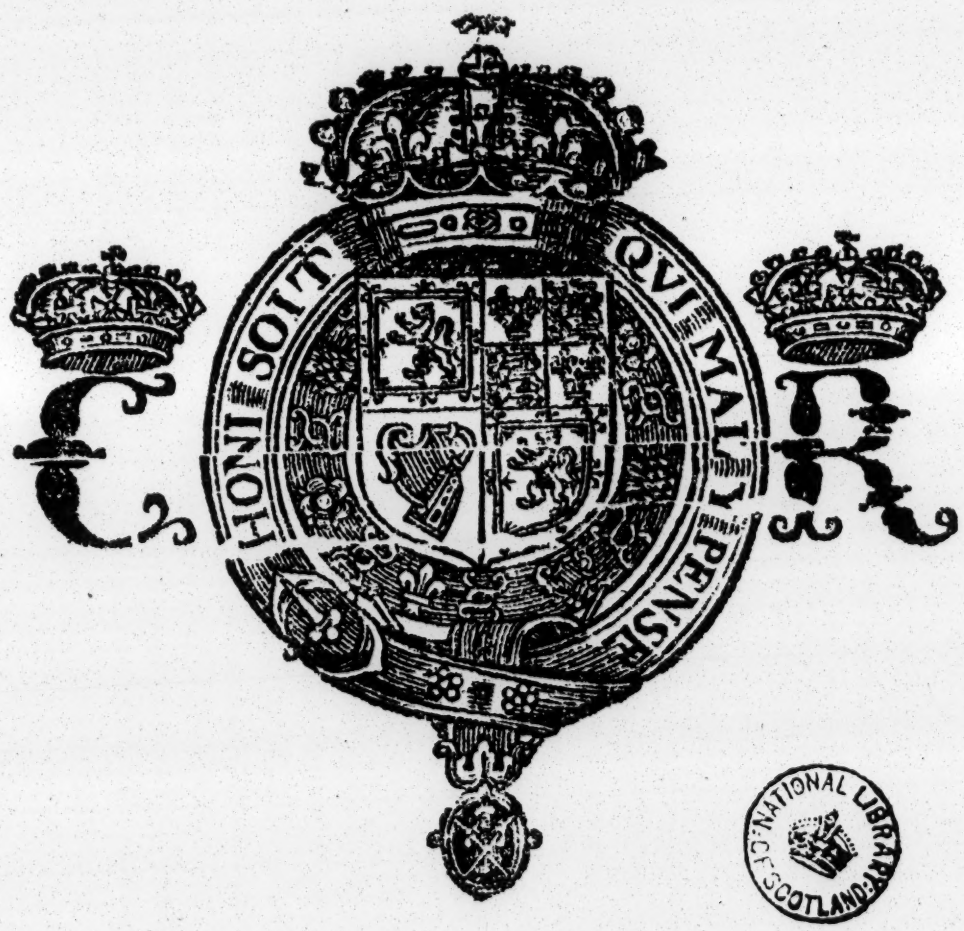
21.

HIS MAJESTIES MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT,

The One and Twentieth day of *September*, 1666.



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EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's moſt Excellent MAJESTY, 1666.

HIS MAJESTIES
Moſt Gracious
SPEECH
To Both
HOUSES
OF
PARLIAMENT, &c.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am very glad to meet ſo many of you together again, and God be thanked for our meeting together in this place; little time hath paſſed ſince we were almoſt in diſpair of having this place left Us to meet in. You ſee the diſmal Ruines the Fire hath made, and nothing but a Miracle of Gods mercy could have preſerved What is left from the ſame Deſtruction. I need make no excuſe to you for diſpenſing with your attendance in April, I am confident you all thanked Me for it; the truth is, I deſire to put you to as little trouble as I can, and I can tell you truly, I deſire to put you to as little coſt as is poſſible; I wiſh with all my heart, that I could bear the Whole charge of this War my ſelf, and that my Subjects ſhould reap the benefit of it to themſelves; but We have two very

great and powerful Enemies, Who use all the means they can, fair and foul, to make all the World to concur with them, and the War is more chargeable (by that Conjunction) then any body thought it would have been: I need not tell you the success of this Summer, in which GOD hath given us great success, and no question the Enemy hath undergone great losses, and if it had pleased GOD to have with-held his late Judgement by Fire, We had been in no ill condition. You have given me large Supplies for the carrying on the War, and yet I must tell you, if I had not by anticipating my own Revenue raised a very great sum of Money, I had not been able to have set out the Fleet this last Spring, and I have some hope upon the same Credit to be able to pay off the great ships as they come in: You will consider what is to be done next When you are well informed of the expence, and I must leave it to your Wisdoms to find out the best Expedients for the carrying on this War, With as little burthen to the People as is possible. I shall add no more then to put you in mind, that Our Enemies are very insolent, and if they were able this last year to perswade their miserable People whom they mislead, that the Contagion had so wasted the Nation and impoverished Us, that We would not be able to set out any Fleet, how will they be exalted with this last impoverishment of this City, and contemn all reasonable Conditions of Peace; and therefore I cannot doubt but you will provide accordingly.

FINIS.